

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-02 /005 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: IO/HDC:LNCAVANAUGH

APPROVED BY: IO/HDC:CJNEE

ARA - GLISTER (PHONE)

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R 061608Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BOGOTA CURACAO FROM CARACAS
DEC 4

QUOTE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR VE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: DEVELOPMENTS DURING NOVEMBER IN
VENEZUELA

FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE ARA MONTHLY REPORT ON
NARCOTICS CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE
SUBMITTED WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA FOR THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER:

A. A REVIEW OF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STATISTICS
INDICATES THAT SINCE JULY 1972 THERE HAS BEEN A
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ARRESTS FOR AND SEIZURES OF
COCAINE, LSD, HASHISH, AND MARIJUANA. THE ONLY SEIZURE
AND ARRESTS INVOLVING HEROIN OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1972.
THE STATISTICS INDICATE A DECREASE IN THE ABUSE OF "UP"
AND "DOWN" DRUGS.

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B. DEA COOPERATED IN TWO COCAINE SEIZURES. ON NOVEMBER 2 FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED BY NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AUTHORITIES IN ARUBA ON THE FERRY BOAT OPERATING BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND SEVEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. THE VENEZUELAN TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) COOPERATED WITH DEA AND THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES' AUTHORITIES IN THESE ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. ON NOVEMBER 10, THE PTJ SEIZED TWO KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE AND ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIANS AND ONE VENEZUELAN.

C. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL RECENT SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN FROM EUROPE TO VENEZUELA, FOR STORAGE HERE AND EVENTUAL SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.

D. NARCOTIC MUSHROOMS APPEAR TO BE GROWING IN ABUNDANCE IN THE ANDEAN REGION OF VENEZUELA, AND ABUSE OF THE SAME IS REPORTEDLY INCREASING.

E. ACCORDING TO A PRESS ACCOUNT OF A RECENT PTJ STUDY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1,000 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA ENTER VENEZUELA FROM COLOMBIA EACH MONTH. AN ESTIMATED 50,000 PERSONS IN CARACAS ARE SAID TO USE MARIJUANA WITH SOME FREQUENCY.

F. THE FIRST CONFERENCE BRINGING TOGETHER THE COMMISSION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS AND KEY OFFICIALS OF THE DRUG ABUSE COMMISSIONS IN THE VARIOUS STATES TOOK PLACE IN CARACAS NOVEMBER 1-3.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEA ARE REVIEWING A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING NARCOTICS CONTROL NEEDS AT THE PORT OF LA GUAIRA.

H. THREE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS (TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS AND THE CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST OF THE PTJ) ARE ATTENDING THE AID-SPONSORED DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION SEMINAR, WHICH BEGAN IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON NOVEMBER 27.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG ABUSE, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE238809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:LNCAVANAUGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731240/aaaabdoc.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: DEVELOPMENTS DURING NOVEMBER IN VENEZUELA
TAGS: SNAR, VE
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005